REMARKS

A Terminal Disclaimer is attached to overcome the double patenting objection. Due to the Terminal Disclaimer, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 6, 2004

Timothy N. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994

TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C. 8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100

Houston, Texas 77024 (713) 468-8880 [Phone] (713) 468-8883 [Fax]